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Anchorage, AK 99503-6925**

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 26, 2002

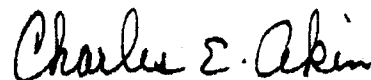
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Like George Washington before me, I am a surveyor of America the beautiful. In my case, Alaska the beautiful is my domain.

Out of personal interest, I have followed the computer industry, and I use computers professionally at work. The Microsoft case, brought on by the previous administration, has been frivolous from the start. Federal Judge Penfield Jackson revealed his biases in his government-paid offices to a reporter during the course of the trial. The Court of Appeals sent the case back to be heard by a new judge, to avoid the prejudiced, attention seeking, Judge Jackson. Now, there is a settlement that has been reached after three months of negotiation with the help of a mediator appointed by the new judge. The parties compromised, which is what a settlement is about. The anti-Microsoft forces agreed to let it stay as one company, and got Microsoft to give up on its legal rights to copyrights and patents and freely arrived at business contract terms. For example, Microsoft will give up its right to have companies that want to build computers using its Windows to have exclusive agreements with it, as, in a different market Coca-Cola has an exclusive with McDonalds. Microsoft software codes will be licensed without discrimination at reasonable prices. Microsoft must give away the software code for the internal Windows interfaces.

The terms go on and on, including a committee of top software engineers to monitor compliance and investigate complaints. The settlement is a good compromise, in America's best interest. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Charles Akin